U.S. NAVAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE UNIT [redacted]
Fairmont Building
4420 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22203

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DECLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY OF
ART. NI-604, OPNAVIST 5510.1D
BY: CNO (OP-009D3
On 20 APR 1973

23 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: OSWALD, Lee Harvey, Ex-PFC, USMCR, 1653230 (U)

1. OSWALD, who was reportedly born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 18 October 1939, has, according to his own statement given to news correspondents in Moscow in thefall of 1959, long been dissatisfied both with his own lot and with what he has conceived to be social and economic inequities in the United States. At the age of 15, according to his statement given above, he discovered what he has called "socialist literature," particularly Karl Marx's Das Kapital. OSWALD's alleged discontent with America, however, did not prevent him from enlisting for three years in the U.S. Marine Corps at Dallas, Texas, on 24 October 1956. While in Service he attended the Aviation Fundamental School and completed the Aircraft Control and Warning Operators' Course, following which he was assigned to Japan and Taiwan. Released to inactive duty at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California, on 11 September 1959, he, according to his later statement, immediately departed from the United States by ship with the intent of traveling to the USSR through Northern Europe. Reportedly entering the Soviet Union from Finland on 15 October 1959, OSWALD appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow on 31 October, at which time he presented a statement signed by himself in which he specifically renounced his American citizenship, stated that he was applying for Soviet citizenship, and affirmed that his allegiance was to the USSR. In an interview held with Embassy representatives at this time, during which OSWALD's manner was said to be "aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative," he reportedly stated that the reason for his act was that "I am a Marxist," and he volunteered the statement that he intended to inform the Soviets of his specialized knowledge obtained as a radar operator in the Marine Corps. This knowledge could not have been too damaging since he reportedly had no access to classified material while in the Marine Corps. Later, in an interview with American correspondents in Moscow, OSWALD elaborated somewhat on his reasons for defection, claiming that he was repelled by "what happens to workers in the United States" and by how Negroes are treated "in the South". Additional information possibly bearing on OSWALD's reasons for defection was provided at the time by his half-brother, then a Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, who described OSWALD as a moody and bitter youngster, attributing this bitterness to OSWALD's mother's personality.

2. In November 1959 Soviet authorities reportedly refused to grant OSWALD citizenship status, but did allow him to live in the USSR as a resident alien. In view of OSWALD's actions in these respects he was given an undesirable (Unfit) discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on 17 August 1960. Apparently learning of this at a later date, OSWALD sent a letter dated 30 January 1961 but received in February 1962 from his address in Minsk, USSR, to Mr. John B. CONNALLY, Jr , then residing in Fort Worth, Texas, following his resignation as Secretary of the Navy. Expressing considerable bitterness about his being given an undesirable discharge from the Marine Corps Reserve, he stated in this letter that everything he had done had had the sanction of the U. S. Government, and that following his contemplated return to the U. S. later that year "I shall employ all means to right this gross mistake or injustice to a boni-fied(sic) U.S. citizen and ex-service man." In concluding the letter, OSWALD charged Mr. CONNALLY with the duty of inquiring about his

Attachment #3
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case and then taking the "neccessary(sic) steps to repair the damage done to me and my family." Somewhat later, in March 1962, OSWALD addressed another letter complaining about the character of his discharge to BGEN TOMPKINS, Assistant Director of Personnel, U.S. Marine Corps, but in this case he made no threats or promises as to what he planned to do should he not receive satisfaction.

3. In June 1962 OSWALD reportedly left his job with the Belorussian Radio and Television Factory, Minsk, USSR, and, accompanied by his Soviet wife and child, departed the Soviet Union destined for the U.S., still an American citizen according to the U.S. Department of State which ruled that he had not expatriated himself under the pertinent laws of the United States. Upon his return, OSWALD was interviewed by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents who reported that he exhibited an impatient and arrogant attitude during the interview, that he denied renouncing his American citizenship or seeking Soviet citizenship, and that he stated that he had not been recruited by Soviet intelligence while in the USSR. A few weeks later OSWALD obtained employment as a machinist with a local machine shop in Fort Worth, Texas. Interviewed again by FBI agents, he continued to deny renouncing his American citizenship, while refusing to discuss his reasons for going to the Soviet Union, disclaimed recruitment by Soviet intelligence or that he had made a "deal" with the Soviet government for his return, and stated that a contact he had made with the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., had merely been for the purpose of reporting his wife's current address.

4. Apparently still attracted to communism, OSWALD wasreported to be a subscriber to "The Worker," east coast communist newspaper, as of September 1962. In March 1963, having moved to Dallas, Texas, OSWALD had acquired a reputation among the other tenants at his apartment address of frequently drinking to excess and of beating his wife on "numerous occasions." A month later, reports were received indicating that OSWALD had been in contact with the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and that he had passed out literature for this organization while wearing a placard around his neck reading "Hands Off Cuba-Viva Fidel." In June 1963 he reportedly moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he secured temporary employment as a maintenance man and continued to distribute literature for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which latter activity once resulted in his arrest when he became embroiled in a fight with some Cuban refugees. While in New Orleans OSWALD's commitment to Castro's Cuba apparently became stronger, for he, in an August 1963 interview by FBI agents, willingly admitted his activity on behalf of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and, following his participation in a local radio program on Cuba, stated that the Russians had "gone soft" on communism and that Cuba is the only real revolutionary country in the world today.

5. In late September 1963 OSWALD reportedly moved from New Orleans with his wife and child ostensibly destined for Texas, but no information is available indicating that he actually went there at that time. On 1 October 1963 a reliable and sensitive source reported that a man answering OSWALD's physical description had been in contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, inquiring whether the embassy had received any information concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington. Information presently available to the Office of Naval Intelligence does not indicate what significance, if any, this contact may have represented, and no other information on OSWALD was received until 22 November 1963.

CIA report

D. R. PASCHAL